



Frommer celebrates productive legislative year

Governor signs 10 bills Assemblyman Frommer sent to desk in 2003.

(SACRAMENTO, CA) – The year 2003 was an extremely difficult one for the California Legislature, as it faced an unprecedented \$38-billion budget deficit and the first recall of a sitting governor.

Despite such obstacles, the Governor signed 10 bills sent to him by Assemblyman Dario Frommer (D-Glendale).

“I am extremely pleased that we were able to pass some real, meaningful legislation, both for my district and for California, during such a politically difficult year,” Frommer said.

Curbing Health Care Costs

Three bills authored by Frommer and signed into law will lower skyrocketing hospital costs and expand health care to more Californians.

Assembly Bill 1627 requires that hospitals make public their “chargemaster,” or list of sticker prices for services, available to the public, bringing a much-

continued on page 2

Resolution to honor fallen Burbank Police Officer

Assemblyman Frommer unveils proposal to rename portion of Golden State Freeway (5) for Officer Matthew Pavelka.

(BURBANK, CA) – A 3-mile portion of the Golden State (5) Freeway could be named for fallen Burbank Police Officer Matthew Pavelka this year if the Legislature passes a resolution introduced by Assemblyman Dario Frommer (D-Glendale).



Pavelka, 26, was killed in the line of duty on November 15, 2003, by two alleged gang members, after arriving to assist fellow officer Gregory Campbell in a routine traffic stop. Nicknamed “Carrot Top,” redheaded rookie Pavelka had served only 10 months with the Burbank Police Department before becoming the first officer killed in the line of duty in the department’s 82-year history.

“What happened to Officer Pavelka is a tragedy that has shaken each and every member

continued on page 3

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 *Frommer celebrates productive year*
- 1 *Burbank Police Officer Pavelka remembered*
- 2 *Frommer introduces bill to curb traffic light abuse*
- 2 *Assemblyman cracks down on ATM fraud*
- 3 *Upcoming Events in the 43rd Assembly District*
- 3 *How to contact Assemblyman Frommer*

needed level of transparency to the system.

Assembly Bill 1528, joint authored by Frommer and Assemblywoman Rebecca Cohn (D-Saratoga), will create a blue ribbon commission to research and recommend strategies for promoting high-quality health care while containing health care costs. The commission, which will include: business, labor, consumers, hospital and physician representatives, as well as health economists and other experts, must present a report to the Legislature by January 1, 2005.

Senate Bill 2 by state Senators John Burton and Jackie Speier, both from San Francisco, and Frommer will expand health care to 1.5 million California workers by 2007. The bill requires businesses with 200 or more workers to provide health insurance for their workers and dependents by 2006. Businesses with 50 or more employees are required to provide health insurance for just their workers beginning in 2007. Employers who do not provide health care directly will pay a fee into a state pool that will be used to provide health care for those employees.

Promoting Continuity of Care

The Governor also signed Frommer's AB 1286, which will prevent hundreds of thousands of Californians from being forced to change doctors because of a contractual dispute between their physician and HMO.

Stopping Illegal Tax Shelters

Frommer's AB 1601, legislation to crack down on large corporations using illegal tax shelters to cheat the state of \$250 million to \$500 million each year, became law. The bill imposes stricter penalties on criminals who use or promote these illegal tactics and gives California's Franchise Tax Board additional powers for enforcing the law. ♦

Frommer introduces bill to curb traffic light abuse

Legislation would address increasing reports of drivers illegally using traffic light-changing devices.

(GLENDALE, CA) – Assemblyman Dario Frommer (D-Glendale) has introduced legislation to crack down on criminals who illegally purchase mobile infrared transmitters (MIRT's) for as little as \$100 on the Internet.



This technology is only authorized for use by emergency vehicles, public transportation and law enforcement agencies but is being sold to lawbreakers over the Internet.

“While every driver dreams of being able to change a light from red to green when they’re in a hurry, these MIRTs can cause havoc on our streets in the wrong hands.”

Frommer's bill would ban the purchase and sale of MIRT's by anyone who is not authorized to use such devices. ♦

Legislation will crack down on increasing ATM fraud

Frommer aims to protect families' financial information and life savings.

(SACRAMENTO, CA) – Assemblyman Dario Frommer (D-Glendale) introduced legislation this month to crack down on criminals who are buying ATMs and using them to steal customers' financial information and money.

“I was shocked to learn that anyone can buy an ATM and get hooked up to the national banking network,” Frommer said. “There is no background check required by law. Our aim is to guarantee that when you use an ATM, your information is not being stolen by the ATM owner.”

Frommer's bill would address recent alarming reports of independent ATM operators using their machines to commit fraud and steal customers' financial information and life savings. Independent ATM operators would have to register, submit to a full background check of the department and obtain licenses under the bill. ♦

UPCOMING EVENTS

43RD ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

February 6

Forum on Workers' Compensation
Select Committee on Small Business

Glendale Central Public Library
222 East Harvard Street, Glendale

Thursdays, 9:30 p.m.

"Capitol Connection with Assemblyman Dario Frommer"

Charter Communications Channel 25

CONTACT US

District Office

620 North Brand Boulevard, Suite 403
Glendale, California 91203
(818) 240-6330
(818) 240-4632 (FAX)

Capitol Office

PO Box 942849
Sacramento, California 94249-0043
(916) 319-2043
(916) 319-2143

Online

<http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a43/>
Assemblymember.Frommer@assembly.ca.gov

of this grieving community," Frommer said. "It reminds me that our local peace officers and firefighters risk their lives every day to keep our community safe. Officer Pavelka was an outstanding officer who made the ultimate sacrifice on our behalf." ♦

Other News In Brief

Frommer welcomes KA Day Committee

(SACRAMENTO, CA) – Members of the Los Angeles-based Korean American Day Committee traveled to Sacramento this month to celebrate California's first-ever Korean American Day on January 13, 2004.

Frommer and other members of the Assembly introduced a resolution to recognize January 13 as Korean American Day and to commemorate that date as the centennial of Korean immigration to the United States. ♦



Seniors turn out for identity theft workshop

(BURBANK, CA) – Senior citizens from the 43rd Assembly District attended a workshop this month at the Joslyn Adult Center hosted by Assemblyman Dario Frommer (D-Glendale) to learn more about how they can protect themselves from identity theft, investment fraud and telemarketing scams.

The workshop joined the forces of Frommer, Burbank's Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, United States Postal Inspector Services and Burbank Police Department. ♦